



DOUBLE NEST OF RED-EYED VIREO

Courtesy of Fawson's Birds of Ohio

Photo by Lynds Jones

A DOUBLE NEST OF RED-EYED VIREO.

LYNDS JONES.

The accompanying illustration represents a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, taken more than a dozen years ago at my old home in Iowa. As shown in the illustration, there were two eggs in one side and one in the other. When the nest was found the mother bird was sitting upon the two egg side, but there were evidences showing that she had also sat upon the one egg side. To all appearances the two nests are exactly alike, and each is practically complete, only a small amount of the material being common to both nests. It could rarely happen that a main branch would have two twigs growing from it on opposite sides at almost the same level, and at practically the same angle. It is hardly conceivable that two females or two pairs of birds could have built these nests. At any rate, there was no evidence of it, for only one pair of birds was to be found in the vicinity. Neither is it likely that the male built one nest while the female built the other. The evidence is strongly in favor of the same architect for both nests. It looks like a case of indecision between two equally favorable nesting sites. We are not surprised at evidences of indecision in the Long-billed Marsh Wren—if that is indecision rather than a method of working off superfluous energy—but the Vireos have not been supposed to do such things.

THE CLOCK FACTORY.

ESTHER CRAIGMILE.

Our little party was eager with expectancy, for it stood on the edge of a pine grove from which proceeded no small commotion. It was eleven o'clock in the morning and the colony was just retiring for the day. We were nearer now, and could see they were Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). Some parent birds sat silently at the top of the dead pines, while some were feeding the young. The larger trees contained three and four nests. Three or